

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 07697 261508Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-14 SAM-01 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IGA-02 OMB-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6266

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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USMISSION USNATO

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EUCOM

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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SUBJ: IMMEDIATE TURKISH REACTION TO HOUSE ACTION
ON MILITARY AID TO TURKEY

REF: STATE 211577 (NOTAL)

1. IMMEDIATE TURKISH REACTION TO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SEPTEMBER 24 ACTION ON MILITARY AID TO TURKEY INCLUDED
MIXTURE OF FRUSTRATION, CONCERN, BELLIGERENCE, APPRECIATION FOR
SUPPORT OF TURKEY BY EXECUTIVE BRANCH, SOME CONFIDENCE "THAT
END RESULT WILL BE FAVORABLE TO TURKEY", AND CONSIDERABLE
CONFUSION ABOUT US CONGRESSIONAL AND GENERAL GOVERNMENTAL
PROCEDURES. MOST OF THESE REACTIONS WERE VOICED IN PUBLIC AND
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 07697 261508Z

PRIVATE COMMENTS, AS WELL AS PRESS REACTION, BEFORE DEPARTMENT'S

SEPTEMBER 25 STATEMENT (REFTEL). USIS IS NOW DISSEMINATING PERTINENT EXCERPTS FROM THAT STATEMENT WIDELY.

2. OF MANY COMMENTS ON SUBJECT, MOST IMPORTANT CAME FROM ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER (AND DEFENSE MINISTER) HASAN ISIK IN AN EXCHANGE WITH THE PRESS LATE AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 25. HIS TONE WAS GENERALLY MODERATE AND UNDERSTANDING OF USG POSITION ON SUBJECT. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS MADE IN INTERVIEW:

A. "US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WHICH IS KNOWN FOR ALWAYS REACHING THE RIGHT DECISION, HAS FAILED TO DO SO THIS TIME. HOWEVER, I DO NOT THINK THAT THIS IS BECAUSE OF LACK OF GOOD WILL. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE HOUSE DID NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT DATA TO REACH SUCH A DECISION...THEREFORE, DESPITE THE DECISION, I AM STILL OPTIMISTIC."

B. TURKEY, AS RESULT OF PAST 11 YEARS OF HISTORY AND THE FAIT ACCOMPLI OF JULY, HAD TO ACT. "IT IT HAD NOT DONE SO, IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO TALK ABOUT AN INDEPENDENT CYPRUS TODAY."

C. HE BELIEVED USG SHARED THIS INTERPRETATION AND COMMENTED THAT US'S ATTITUDE HAD BEEN "PRAISEWORTHY" AND RESULTED IN "POSITIVE NEW ATMOSPHERE IN RELATIONS" WHICH "WE WILL MAINTAIN".

D. DESPITE THIS, TURKEY COULD NOT ACCEPT PRESSURE IN THE FORM OF HINTS THAT "I MAY DEPRIVE YOU OF THIS". HE NOTED THAT SUCH ACTIONS HAVE "BACKFIRED IN OUR COUNTRY" BEFORE.

E. AID IS NOT "FOR THE BENEFIT OF A SINGLE COUNTRY ...TURKEY PROVIDES THE ALLIANCE AS MANY BENEFITS AS SHE RECEIVES".

F. ISIK HOPED USG WOULD "DEMONSTRATE THESE REALITIES OF CYPRUS SITUATION TO THE AMERICAN SENATE" BEFORE FURTHER CONGRESSIONAL ACTION IS TAKEN.

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PAGE 03 ANKARA 07697 261508Z

3. SEPTEMBER 26 PRESS GAVE MAJOR FRONT PAGE COVERAGE TO HOUSE ACTION. ONLY LATEST EDITIONS INCLUDED DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT (REFEL), BUT THAT STATEMENT WAS CARRIED ON MORNING SEPTEMBER 26 RADIO NEWS COVERAGE. MAIN THEMES IN ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS WERE:

A. EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAS MADE EXCEPTIONAL EFFORT TO COUNTER CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THIS SUBJECT.

B. AID CUTOFF WOULD DAMAGE NATO AND, AS HURRIYET COMMENTED, WOULD LEAVE "THE TASK OF DEFENDING THE SOUTH-EASTERN FLANK OF NATO TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES".

C. SEVERAL POINTED HINTS WERE MADE THAT, DESPITE HOUSE ACTION, TURKEY COULD "GO IT ALONE". A FEW PAPERS NOTED THAT HOUSE HAD APPROXIMATELY SAME TIME DEFEATED EFFORT TO CUT OF MILITARY AID TO GREECE, AND SOME OF THOSE REFERRED TO "GREEK VOTE" IN THE US.

4. BEYOND THIS OFFICIAL AND PRESS REACTION, WE HAVE OBSERVED WIDESPREAD INTEREST AND CONCERN IN RECENT AND PENDING CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS ON MILITARY AID TO TURKEY. THEY ARE CLEARLY A SUBJECT OF GREAT INTEREST HERE.
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